

## Fr. O'Connor's Homily – September 30th 2018

Have you ever heard someone say “Go drop dead,” or “Go soak your head,” or “I’m gonna murder you, if you do that?” We have a tendency to be dramatic, to overstate the case. It seems Jesus is engaged in a bit of this in today’s Gospel; Cut your hand off, cut your foot off, gauge your eye out. He doesn’t mean these things literally but he surely get our attention. He makes His point.

And have you noticed how much time and effort Jesus puts into teaching the Apostles? He leads them into losing their phony lives. So he tells them and us, “ The last will be first and the first will be last,” “Deny yourself, lose yourself, take up your cross,” If you want to be first, you must be the last of all and the servant of all.” The Gospels are packed with sayings like this. Most especially He Himself loses His life- death on a cross.

If we believe that being Catholic, being Christian, is simply about keeping the Commandments and saying some prayers we are missing the heart of Jesus’ teaching, “Lose yourself in order to find yourself (your true self). When Jesus is talking about plucking out your eye or cutting off your foot, becoming the last, He is talking about humility.

I watched much of the hearing on Thursday regarding Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford. Talk about humiliation!! The whole process abounded in one humiliation after another. And of course humiliations are part of our everyday lives!! See how our Church is being humiliated in our time. What kind of humiliations do you experience on a daily basis?

Of course there is the humiliation of sickness and old age, but there is so much more. The mistakes we make in clear sight of everybody, rejections by friends, your family’s lack of gratitude, the big goof you made at work etc.

Jesus made all this so clear to the Apostles (and to us). Listen to John the Baptist as he refers to Jesus, “He must increase and I must decrease.”

Our Christian life is not about being the first of all but rather it’s about changing and becoming like a little child, the least of all.

Now in the Eucharist we receive this tiny humble piece of bread and we are filled with light- The Body of Christ.

Praise Him!! And I believe this; truly humble people are happy people.